

Duxbury: Closed for business?

The news this week that two established local businesses are closing — Artica and the Video Scene — should serve as a wakeup call to Duxbury consumers. Take your local businesses for granted and you make wake up one day to find they are gone. Disappeared. Replaced by box stores, 40B projects, or just empty storefronts.



Running a business is a struggle and local businesses are all the more susceptible to uncertain economic times. They need our support.

And yet too often we insult our local busi-

nesses. we ask them to sponsor our children's sports teams, but we head to the chain stores to buy their equipment.

Local business owners help keep our property taxes lower, yet our schools make deals with the Wal-Marts and Barnes & Nobles of the world.

We waited four years for a new supermarket to come to town and we reward them by selling pay-as-you-throw bags at Stop & Shop and Hannafords. Is it really too much trouble for Duxbury residents to buy a trash bag in a Duxbury store?

Think about the ripple effect. When you shop at a local business you are not just supporting them but you are supporting the people they do business with. Local businesses use the services of other local businesses. They hire local accountants, insurance brokers, computer gurus, graphic designers, and architects. They advertise in local newspapers. They sponsor Little League teams. They donate auction items. They buy tickets to spaghetti dinners. That money largely stays in town, or on South Shore. Profits from chain stores returns to shareholders, equity firms and corporate headquarters.

If you don't care if downtown Duxbury turns into a bevy of dollar stores and soaped-up windows then by all means keep heading to Wal-Mart. We won't have a Little League, supermarket or local newspaper anymore, but hey you might save a few cents and that's what's most important, right?

On the other hand if you want to maintain a thriving commercial district and support the people who support us you can't just talk about it. Put your money where your mouth is Duxbury shoppers.

- J. Cutler